

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAR ES 00757 230830Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7707
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 0757

EXDIS

LONDON FOR MOOSE

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: TALKS WITH OWEN

REF: A) LONDON 02978, B) LONDON 02979

1. IN THE INTERESTS OF SPEED, WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS
BLUNTLY. THEY ARE, WE THINK, RELEVANT TO THE ISSUES DISCUSSED
IN REFTELS.

2. IF OWEN IN FACT HAS GONE OVER TO THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT
(REF A), FIRST PRIORITY FOR US POLICY ACTION SHOULD BE TO GET HIM
BACK (PRESIDENTIAL APPROACH TO CALLAGHAN?). HE IS DESTROYING
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ALL POSSIBILITY FOR ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND GETTING UK (AND,
IF HE CAN, US) INVOLVED IN EFFORT WHICH IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO CIVIL
WAR AND FURTHER ENHANCEMENT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA.

3. IF US IS UNABLE PREVENT OWEN COURSE OF ACTION AND DOES NOT
QUICKLY AND CLEARLY DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM IT, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT

TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE HERE BUT IT WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO LIMIT IT. THE US WILL BE SEEN AS ABANDONING THE MUTUALLY AGREED APPROACH TO RHODESIA DEVELOPED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN WASHINGTON LAST AUGUST. THE TRUST WE HAVE DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST YEAR WILL PLUMMENT.

4. NYERERE AT LEAST IS FAR MORE CONCERNED WITH THE PROSPECTS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA THAN HE IS WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A GREAT EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN IS DEAD, HE WILL SIMPLY RETURN TO THE COURSE HE ORIGINALLY SAW AS THE ANSWER: CONTINUED STRUGGLE TO THE END. CUBAN AND SOVIET SUPPORT OF THIS, AS IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA, WILL NOT INHIBIT HIM FROM DOING SO.

5. WE ARE AWARE THAT BROADER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS MAY MAKE IT THE LESSER EVIL FOR US TO TAKE OUR LUMPS WITH NYERERE AND THE FRONT LINE. OUR POINT AT THE MOMENT IS SIMPLY THAT THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT FOR A SUCCESSFUL MOOSE VISIT HERE IS THAT HE BE ABLE, NOT MERELY TO GIVE A STRAIGHT-TALKING FRANK ASSESSMENT OF WHAT WE THINK IS GOING ON, BUT TO REITERATE US SUPPORT FOR THE APPROACH AGREED UPON WITH NYERERE LAST AUGUST AND, IF THAT MEANS DISASSOCIATION FROM THE UK, TO INDICATE THAT. MINIMUM US POSITION, TO BE EFFECTIVE, WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO INCLUDE PUBLIC INDICATION NON-RECOGNITION OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT REGIME.

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6. IN OUR VIEW ANYTHING LESS THAN ABOVE WOULD INCREASE, NOT REDUCE, DISILLUSION WITH US INTENTIONS -- WHICH MIGHT WELL BE REFLECTED IN POST-VISIT PRESS CONFERENCE BY NYERERE.
SPAIN

SECRET

NNN

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